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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Reported Purchase of Arms by Spanish Communists  
Involving Counterfeit Pesetas

DIST. 10 February 1947

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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While the following information is not entirely logical in all its aspects, it is believed to be of sufficient interest to warrant distribution.

1. According to information of 9 January 1947, the Spanish Communists in France have bought a large quantity of arms from the "Oerlikon" factory, including forty guns mounted on rubber-tired wheels and five thousand machine guns. Source comments that the latter figure probably includes small-caliber weapons of various types.
2. The informant stated that the weapons were paid for in counterfeit pesetas which were made in Marseilles. He added that the police know where the shop is located in which the pesetas are made and that they expect to take over the premises in the near future.
3. Part of the weapons reportedly has been sent to Belgium, to be transported from there to France. The rest were sent to Genoa, and are to be sent directly from there to Spain by boat.
4. The French Minister of the Interior reportedly was informed that the first-mentioned shipment had arrived at the Belgian frontier with France, but by 9 January had made no decision as to whether or not the arms would be seized as soon as they reached France.
5. According to source, at a recent meeting of the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party, it was decided that in March large-scale armed action would be undertaken in Spain. It was in accord with this decision that the arms were purchased.

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